

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Amended) A mutant α -amylase derived from an α -amylase having an amino acid sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID No. 2~~ SEQ ID No. 4 or showing at least 60% homology thereto by substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue corresponding to any one of Asp₁₂₈, Gly₁₄₀, Ser₁₄₄, Arg₁₆₈, Asn₁₈₁, Glu₂₀₇, Phe₂₇₂, Ser₃₇₅, Trp₄₃₄ and Glu₄₆₆ of the amino acid sequence.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A mutant α -amylase according to claim 2, wherein the substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue is substitution of the amino acid residue corresponding to Asp₁₂₈ with Val or Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to Gly₁₄₀ with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser₁₄₄ with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Arg₁₆₈ with Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to Gln₁₈₁ with Val, the amino acid residue corresponding to Glu₂₇₀ Glu₂₀₇ with Asp, the amino acid residue corresponding to Phe₂₇₂ with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser₃₇₅ with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Trp₄₃₄ with Arg or the amino acid residue corresponding to Glu₄₆₆ with Asp.
5. (Currently Amended) A gene encoding a mutant α -amylase as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, or a vector containing said gene.
6. (Original) A cell transformed by a vector as claimed in claim 5.
7. (Original) A method for producing a mutant α -amylase, which comprises cultivating a transformant cell as claimed in claim 6.
8. (Currently Amended) A detergent composition comprising a mutant α -amylase as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4.